

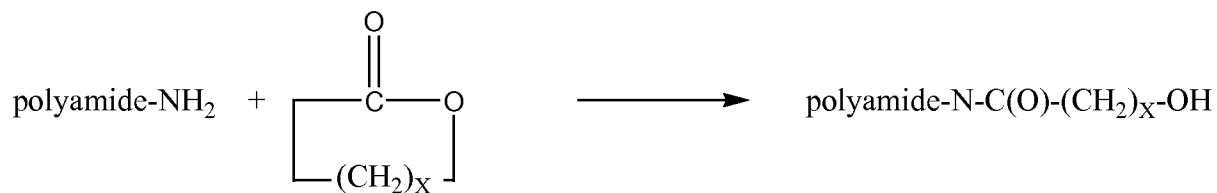
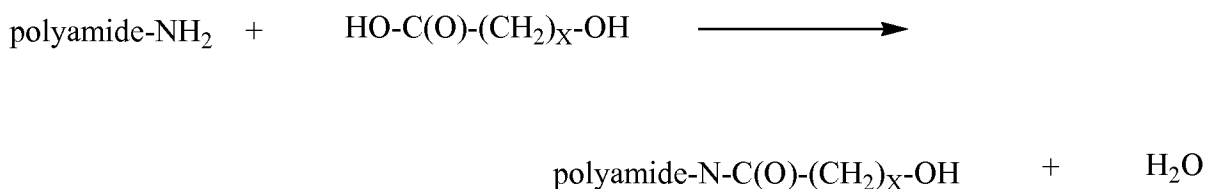
REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-18 are pending and under active consideration.

The office has rejected claims 1, 7, 9 and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Hoyt (EP0409093) or Sato (US 4,963,639) as evidenced by Lombardi (US 3,663,511). The office rejected claims 2, 3, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Hoyt and Lombardi. Finally, the office rejected claims 5-7, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) over the combination of Hoyt or Sato and Brubaker (US 2,264,298).

The disclosure relates to a polyamide containing a compound that includes at least one hydroxy group and has chemical bonding by way of an amide group to the end of the polymer chain. The compound includes at least one hydroxy group that is a linear unbranched alkanemonocarboxylic acid which has at least one terminal hydroxyl group. The compound which has at least one hydroxy group is present in the range from 0.001 to 2 mol% based on one mole of amide groups of the polyamide. As Applicants note this process of forming the claimed polyamide permits the preparation of a polyamide which has a higher melt volume flow rate (see page 1, lines 31-36, of the specification). Applicants also note that the reaction of the polyamide with the alkanemonocarboxylic acid generates water and this liberation of water maintains or increases the melt volume rate which is a property goal of the claimed polyamide. Accordingly, the liberation of water in this reaction is an aspect of the claimed polyamine. This result would not have been predictable and distinguishes a lactone from a carboxylic acid in the formation of polyamides because the reaction with lactones does not produce water.

Hoyt describes polyamide fiber having reduced amino end groups. Hoyt utilizes cyclic caprolactones to reduce the amino end groups on the polymer. In contrast, the disclosure uses open chain alkanemonocarboxylic acids to reduce the amino end groups on the polymer. These differences are illustrated below.

HoytPresent Disclosure

The polyamide prepared according to Hoyt produces no water whereas the polyamide prepared in the disclosure produces water as a by-product and this water forming reaction leads to a polyamine with different physical properties including equal or higher melt volume rate as noted above. Therefore, the use of epsilon-caprolactone is not equivalent to 6-Hydroxycaproic acid as the office has suggested with regard to Lombardi.

Accordingly, the claimed polyamide is distinct from the polyamide described in the Hoyt, and therefore, the claimed polyamide would not have been anticipated or obvious over Hoyt. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the office withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 7, 9, 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Hoyt.

For the reasons above Applicants also respectfully request that the office withdraw the rejection of claims 2, 3, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Hoyt and Lombardi and the rejection of claims 5, 6, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Hoyt, Brubaker and Lombardi.

With respect to Sato, Applicants note that Sato is directed to radiation curable resins not polyamides. Sato does not teach or suggest at least one hydroxy group present in the range from 0.001 to 2 mol % based on 1 mole of amide groups of the polyamide. There is no suggestion in Sato that this type of polyamide would be useful in producing radiation curable resins. Because Sato does not teach or suggest all the recitations of the claimed polyamide, the claimed polyamide would not have been anticipated or obvious over Sato. Therefore Applicants respectfully request that the office withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 7, 9 and 11-16 over Sato. In addition, for the reasons above, Applicants respectfully request that the office withdraw the rejections of claims 5, 6, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) over the combination of Sato, Brubaker and Lombardi.

In light of the remarks above, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve in any way to advance the prosecution of this application, the undersigned is available at the telephone number noted below.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 12810-00072-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: June 24, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Donald K. Drummond,
Ph.D./

Donald K. Drummond, Ph.D.

Registration No.: 52,834

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

1875 Eye Street, NW

Suite 1100

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 331-7111

(202) 293-6229 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant